

REMARKS

Claims 1-39 were pending. Claims 5-6, 20-21, and 30-31 have been cancelled. Claims 40-43 have been added. Claims 1, 9, 19, and 29 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 7-19, 22-29 and 32-43 are pending.

In the present Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 11, 18-20, 23, 24, 27-30, 33, 34, and 37-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over “Availability Features in the Sun X500 Server Family” in view of Mahalingam (U.S. Patent No. 6,052,733).

Claims 3, 6-10, 12-17, 21, 22, 25, 26, 31, 32, 35 and 36 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the features of claims 5-6, independent claim 19 to include the features of claims 20-21, and independent claim 29 to include the features of claims 30-31. In addition, each of claims 3, 7, 22 and 32 have been rewritten in independent form as claims 40-43, respectively.

Accordingly, Applicant submits each of independent claims 1, 19, 29, and 40-43 are in condition for allowance. Further, all dependent claims are condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5181-58500/RDR.

Respectfully submitted,



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Marked Up Version of Amended Claims

1. (Amended) A method for maintaining high availability in a two node computer network, wherein said computer network includes alternate pathing, said method comprising:

adding a first High Availability Networking (HANet) mechanism to a first node of said two node computer network, wherein said HANet mechanism operates within an Application layer of an architectural model of said computer network;

monitoring a first network path of said computer network, wherein said first network path is between said first node and said second node, wherein said first network path corresponds to a primary path of said alternate pathing, and wherein said monitoring is by said first HANet mechanism;

detecting a failure of said first network path, wherein said failure is detected by said first HANet mechanism; and

performing a failover from said first network path to a second network path of said first node in response to detecting said failure, wherein said second network path corresponds to an alternate path of said alternate pathing, wherein said failover is performed by said first HANet mechanism;

wherein said monitoring comprises said first node monitoring a heartbeat of said first network path, wherein said heartbeat comprises said first node conveying request packets to said second node and said second node conveying reply packets to said first node, where said request packets and said reply packets are conveyed via said first network path.

9. (Amended) The method of claim [6] 1, wherein detecting said failure of said first network path comprises detecting said reply packets are not received from said second node.

19. (Amended) A network node configured to support alternate pathing, said network node comprising:

a first network interface, wherein said first network interface is coupled to a first network path, wherein said first network path corresponds to a primary path of said alternate pathing;

a second network interface, wherein said second network interface is coupled to an second network path, wherein said second path corresponds to an alternate path of said alternate pathing;

a High Availability Networking (HAnet) mechanism, wherein said HAnet mechanism operates within an Application layer of an architectural model of said computer network, wherein said HAnet mechanism is configured to monitor said first network interface, and wherein said HAnet mechanism is configured to perform a failover from said first network interface to said second network interface in response to detecting a failure of said first network path;

wherein said HAnet mechanism is configured to monitor said first network interface by monitoring a heartbeat of a network connection corresponding to said first network interface, wherein said heartbeat comprises conveying request packets and receiving reply packets via said first network interface.

29. (Amended) A two node computer network configured to maintain high availability, wherein said computer network includes alternate pathing, said computer network comprising:

a first node, wherein said first node includes a first High Availability Networking (HAnet) mechanism, wherein said first HAnet mechanism operates within an Application layer of an architectural model of said computer network;

a second node;

a second network path, wherein said second network path corresponds to an alternate path of said alternate pathing, wherein said second network path is between said first node and said second node;

a first network path, wherein said first network path corresponds to a primary path of said alternate pathing, wherein said first network path is between said first node and said second node, and wherein said first HAnet mechanism is configured to monitor said first network path, and wherein said first HAnet mechanism is configured to perform a failover from said first network path to said second network path in response to detecting a failure of said first network path;

wherein said first HAnet mechanism is configured to monitor said first network path by monitoring a heartbeat of said first network path, wherein said heartbeat comprises conveying request packets and receiving reply packets via said first network path.